**Education in Britain and in Russia**



Information is considered to be one of the most expensive and important things nowadays. People are ready to pay really big money for that. The more you know – the more you get in this life. It’s not a secret that in order to get any kind of knowledge you must be quiet an educated person and it proves the fact that education is essential for our life.

Our world is huge and in every country the type, the system, the structure of education – all these things are different although all of them are under the protection of the government. Our Constitution and federal laws control the system of education substantially. Article 43 of our Constitution stipulates that everyone has a right to education. Moreover Constitution guarantees free education in state or municipal institution. Basic general education is obligatory in our country.

**The principals and standards of education in Russia**

Education is an essential process of upbringing and training which is considered to be a social significant benefit in order to protect the interests of individuals, families, society and state. It is the set of acquired knowledge and skills, of value orientations, of attainments in order to develop our intellectual, spiritual, moral, creative, physical and professional level.

In Russian Federation education consists of the following sections:

1. General education;
2. Professional education;
3. Additional education;
4. Professional training.

All these stages (sections) are to be called as continuing education.

General education consists of:

* Preschool education;
* Primary general education;
* Basic general education;
* Secondary education.

Professional education consists of:

* Vocational education;
* Higher education (bachelor);
* Higher education (specialist, master degree);
* Higher education (highly qualified personnel).

Additional education consists of:

* Additional education for children and adults;
* Additional professional education.

Educational system in our country may be divided into the following forms:

* Full-time form;
* Part-time form;
* Extramural form.
* There is also a special form which is called “external studies”.

It is also important to note the fact of the new law’s influence which provides new forms of education:

* Web-based training (it includes the resources of foreign educational organizations);
* Distance education.

All these forms are under control of Federal law №273-FZ dated 29th of January 2012 “Education Act of Russian Federation”. There are also President’s decrees, decrees and orders of the Government, regulations and official letters of the Ministry of education.

According to the existing educational system in our country federal universities (eg. Lomonosov’s University) have a right to stipulate, to develop and to approve educational standards independently.

**Educational management in Russia**

• Ministry of Education and Science of Russian federation (this governmental body is responsible for the establishment of State policy in educational sphere).

• Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science (this body is responsible for licensing, certification and accreditation of the federal educational institutions, of teaching staff and of graduates.

• Government of Russian Federation and other federal bodies.

Regional level of the Government is under control of executive bodies (ministries, departments of education) of subjects of the Federation and on municipal level – departments, divisions, branches of education of municipal formations.

The question of control over the activities of educational system plays a big role in our country and includes the following aspects: federal state control over the quality of education (Rosobrnadzor) and control that is performed by executive bodies of the subjects of Russian Federation (different control services, regional ministries of education).

It is also important to admit that educational activity is subject to licensing (Article 91 of Educational Act № 273-FZ dated the 29th of December 2012).

**British system of education**



Educational system of our country differs from the classical educational model that exists in Great Britain. As far as we know, Great Britain is considered to be a conservative country with its own ancient traditions and rules. The educational system is a decent sample for the whole world. The most famous world’s universities are situated in Great Britain.

Let’s analyze the existing British system. As far as we all know, there is not any Constitution in Great Britain, that’s why law has the main power and influence. Statutory instruments play also a very important role though they may be adopted even without the Parliament.

Education Act 1996 is considered to be the main law in the educational sphere (it regulates the operation of Local Educational Authorities, of the Secretary of the State, financing questions, responsibility questions and so on). Later this law was replaced by Education Act 2002.

Scotland has its own Act dated 2000 – Education and Training Act. There are also an (Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support Act 2001), an Act concerning the additional educational support (dated2004), an Act concerning further and higher education (dated 2005), etc.

It is necessary to admit that there also many laws which may influence the process of education in Great Britain. They are as follows: Human Rights Act 1998, Higher Education Act 2004, Race Relations Act 2000, Sex Discrimination Act 1975, Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 1995, Childcare Act 2006, Equality Act 2006, etc.

Education is obligatory for everyone since 5 to 16 years old in Great Britain. Here we must remember that Great Britain is also famous for its case-law criteria. According to it, if the child (5-16 years old) doesn’t attend school, his parents bear strict responsibility (criminal penalties, fines and costs).

There are two sections of education: state section (free education) and private section (private schools and institutions).

It is important to note that there are two systems of education in Great Britain:

1. System existing in England, Wales and Northern Ireland;
2. System existing in Scotland.

There is a huge variety of schools in Great Britain. The criterions for their classification are very different: for example, there are Boarding schools where students may live. They appeared in the early Middle Ages and they used to be free although some time later people had to pay for this type of schools. In Middle Ages home schooling was also very popular especially for rich people but after it was replaced by schools-pensions.

There are particular principles of the school’s classification:

1. Classification concerning the age (from 3 to 18 years old) – schools of the full cycle and preschools (from 2 to 7 years old).
2. Junior Schools (from 7 to 13 years old) where Common Entrance Examination takes place (it is obligatory for the entrance to the high school) and Primary schools (from 4 to 11 years old) where Standard Assessment Tests take place which is obligatory for the entrance to the Secondary School.
3. Senior High schools which are divided to Senior Schools (from 13 to 18 years old) and are considered to be an important step for the International Baccalaureate or A-Level and Secondary Schools (from 11 years old) which are considered to be preparation for the Universities (Sixth Form).
4. Classification concerning the sexual identity:

Mixed schools – for boys and girls (it is a kind of motivation for the self-development and for the communication with the opposite sex).

1. Schools for girls. This type tells us about the faster self-development of the girls and of their good self-organization.
2. Schools for boys. Here we may see the principles of high activity and mobility, of physical self-development and so on.

Middle education in England from 16 years old is obligatory as it was mentioned above. All state and private schools prepare their students for the General Certificate of Secondary Education or General National vocational Qualification.

At 16 years old students may leave school and start working or to continue their educational process in order to enter the University. Here they are supposed to pass special AS exams. Very often foreign students while arriving to Britain start their education with A-levels.

At 18 years old (after A-levels) there is a possibility to get a higher education (or further education FE) in order to get a bachelor. There are more than 600 of state and private schools for the further education.

Higher education (HE) includes the receiving of bachelor, doctorate degree and MBA.

One of the main points is the fact that higher education is free neither for foreigners nor for citizens. Citizens may have a special debt from the Government but after the termination of the University they are supposed to return this debt.

According to the international research Great Britain takes the 2nd or the 3rd place in the in the international universities’ ratings.

**The comparison of Russian and British systems of education**

Of course, the comparison of these (Russian and British) systems of education is quiet a difficult question not only because of the difference in the existing and operating or controlling mechanisms but also because of the difference in the mentality and state regulation approach.

Nowadays we are trying to get closer to the European educational standards but in my opinion we are too far from the existing in Great Britain system. Here is just one of the examples that may prove my personal point of view: there is a UK Council for International Student Affairs which has a special program for the professors who work with foreign students. This program is one of the main key points for the foreigners who come to study in Great Britain. Here we may see the exchange of experience and of different skills between different countries which essentially facilitate general perception of the new information. With the help of this program it is easier for the professors to analyze, to communicate, to understand and to help students during the whole process of their education.

British system of education is famous for its well-functioning, conservatism and commitment to the correct life values, so our country really has something to strive for in this sphere!